

LOS ANGELES TIMES

STAT

MAR 30 1958

XVII

Times Classified Advertising Number

LA Times

BY THE WAY... with BILL HENRY

You probably wonder what the final seizure of despotic power by Khrushchev in Russia is going to mean to the world in general and to the United States in particular--so you probably like to know how we arrive at our off-the-copilot.

WHAT NEXT?--Such is this, of course, of the greatest importance. Maybe it means that, as another Hitler, Khrushchev will unleash a great world holocaust. Or maybe it means, on the other hand, a tremendous internal struggle within the Kremlin which will end in the collapse of the whole phony political structure in the Soviet. More likely it means something somewhere in between these two. But with Russia controlling more manpower than any other nation, and in possession of the weapons with which to unleash the ultimate in destruction, any change in the top government is of vital consequence to the western free world. And the fact is, of course, that nobody really knows what it means. Mysterious, secretive Russia has long been, and remains, an enigma. We can't really know the answer. The best we can do is to make an educated guess. Now do we go about it?

WHAT?--Since there is no one source of solid reliable chances are that Khrushchev himself doesn't quite know what he's going to do; he just takes power and decides later on what to do with it. There is only one way to arrive at any sensible evaluation of the situation. We must collect information from fact, opinion, rumor, guesswork from every reliable source and then turn this over to some central authority which, through lengthy experience and understanding, can give it a reasonably intelligent evaluation. The chances are that last week's mysterious White House meeting which included our absolute top military and diplomatic brass was giving consideration to just such an evaluation which had been made, and was being submitted, by the CIA.

WHAT IS THE CIA?--The initials stand for Central Intelligence Agency and since any such organization in the final analysis is personalized in one man, CIA usually is regarded as the lengthened shadow of Allen Welsh Dulles, who in vital respects parallels that of his older brother, John Foster Dulles, but whose deliberate self-effacement is in sharp contrast to the nonstop though unceasant publicity which surrounds the Secretary of State. Generally speaking, Allen Dulles is neither well nor widely known, but when any event such as this Kremlin upheaval, or the Suez invasion, or trouble in Sumatra takes place, the first man called to the White House to answer the question "What does this mean?" is Allen Dulles.

MACHINERY--Dulles himself is a wealthy Princetonian Phi Beta Kappa, nearing what is laughingly called "retirement age." He plays a strenuous game of tennis, golfs at around 90, loves to read Erle Stanley Gardiner's legal mysteries and is as big physically and as seemingly indestructible as his more celebrated older brother. He thoroughly enjoys his job as head of a secret agency whose size, character and activities are known to only a handful of top people in Washington. He has his fingers touching every place in the world and in a matter such as this Khrushchev seizure of power his opinion is based on everything that could be learned from as diverse sources as spies and informants behind the Iron Curtain, possibly in the Kremlin itself, and owlish-looking intelligentsia whose knowledge of Russia is confined to translating Soviet newspapers, periodicals and the like. No doubt, arriving at his conclusion, Dulles has given due weight to guesses by our Ambassador in Moscow, O. E. Bohlen, Ambassador Bohlen, now in Manila, who may have learned something leaking out of the Bamboo Office, Ma Peling, and even to opinions that may have been given by such Johnny-come-lately and unlikely experts as Mike Todd and Bob Hope--you never know what morsel of important information they may have picked up. Dulles shakes all this assortments off together, comes up with an educated guess and sees he's right.

MORI/CDF